01940

1968/02/06

29

INFORMATION

Gordon

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

Tuesday, February 6, 1968
9:50 a.m.

Rec'd 10 a.m.

Herewith Gen. Wheeler's daily Khe Sanh summary.

The handwritten note on Abrams' assessment is encouraging.

In fact, there are now two solid conclusions:

-- the people didn't rise;
-- the government and the South Vietnamese functioned under maximum surprise, shock, and strain.

W. W. Rostow

CM-2970-68
6 February 1968

DECLASSIFIED
Authority JCS 10-2-78 letter
By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

TOP SECRET

2A

29a

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

THE JOINT STAFF

CM-2970-68
6 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

DECLASSIFIED
Authority JCS 10-3-78 letter
By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

Subject: Situation in the Khe Sanh Area

1. There have been no major enemy contacts reported in the Khe Sanh area since the enemy attack on Hill 861. An updated report on US Marine casualties during the attack on Hill 861 shows 14 killed and 32 wounded.

2. Marine units in the Khe Sanh area received sporadic small arms and mortar fire. The enemy fire increased as supply missions to the outlying outposts and Hill 861 were conducted. However, there were no reports of casualties during the period. Marine units in the Khe Sanh area expended a total of 7,788 rounds of various caliber artillery and mortar ammunition in response to the sporadic harassment fire by the enemy forces.

3. During the past 24 hours, US Air Force B-52 bombers flew 55 sorties against enemy targets in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area. On 4 February (5 February South Vietnam time), 33 B-52 sorties, not previously reported, were flown against enemy targets in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area. The B-52 sorties flown in that area since 15 January 1968 now total 654, with approximately 19,000 tons of bombs delivered on the enemy.

4. US tactical aircraft flew 213 strike sorties in support of US Marine units at Khe Sanh during the past 24 hours (88 US Air Force, 90 US Navy, 35 US Marine Corps). Bomb damage assessment of the foregoing sorties included fifteen bunkers destroyed, seven gun positions destroyed, three trucks destroyed, three secondary fires, and one secondary explosion.

5. Air landed resupply during the period amounted to 214 tons.

6. No COFRAM was used during the period.

7. The weather observation at 3:00 AM EST (4:00 PM, 6 Feb, South Vietnam time) today in the Khe Sanh area reflects cloudy conditions with visibility at 10 miles. The outlook for the next 14 hours is cloudy with low ceilings, poor visibility,

Cy 1 of ___ copies

TOP SECRET

drizzle and fog. From 9:00 PM EST, 6 Feb (10:00 AM, 7 Feb, South Vietnam time) until 7:00 AM EST, 7 Feb (8:00 PM, 7 Feb, South Vietnam time) the outlook is improved: cloudy, but with higher ceilings, and visibility at seven miles, with occasional light showers.

8. Planned operations in support of Khe Sanh:

a. During the next 24 hours, a total of 33 US Air Force B-52 aircraft are scheduled to bomb five targets near the Demilitarized Zone. Two of the targets are in the vicinity of Khe Sanh, two targets are near the Laotian border approximately 10 miles southwest of Khe Sanh, and one target is adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone approximately 20 miles northeast of Khe Sanh.

b. For the period ending 11:00 PM EST today (12:00 Noon, 7 Feb, South Vietnam time), 175 tactical sorties are planned in the Khe Sanh area. One hundred thirty-four additional sorties are available on call to augment the planned effort. Should the situation require it, additional sorties up to a theoretical total of 646 could be diverted into the area.

9. There have been no changes reported in enemy troop dispositions in the Khe Sanh area.

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

P.S. I talked to Gen Westmoreland at 0830 hours. He had nothing spectacular to report. However, he stated that Gen Abrams has now visited all ARVN divisions except the 1st and 2nd in I Corps. Gen Abrams is highly pleased by alertness, aggressiveness and steadiness of all division commanders.

W